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LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you enclosed herewith the statement issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, issued on 23 July 1993

On 23 July 1993 at 2.20 p.m. local time, two military aircraft of the Azerbaijani air force released three cassette bombs over the Republic of Armenia's southern city of Kapan, in total violation of the Republic's air space.

Four civilians were killed and fourteen were injured as a result of the bombing. The bombing also caused considerable material damage in the city, the extent of which is currently being assessed.

Azerbaijan's military operations are intensifying at a time when efforts are being carried out by the CSCE to bring the Nagorny Karabakh military conflict to the stage of political settlement, a process which is supported by the Armenian Government. This latest attack is another manifestation of the continuing internal struggles within the Baku leadership, the inability of the present government to control its military forces, and is clearly aimed at bringing about the failure of the initiative of Mr. Mario Rafaelli, Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia strongly condemns the violation of its borders, and the barbarous attack waged against its peaceful inhabitants, and declares that the Armenian Government reserves the right to defend the inviolability of its borders and the safety of the population of the Republic of Armenia, and is prepared to take up resolute measures in response to such attacks.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia calls upon the international community to also condemn strongly these military operations by Azerbaijan, and to take a serious position with regard to the military forces which, for the past four days, have been destabilizing the situation in and around Nagorny Karabakh, and have thus been attempting to spread instability into the border regions of the Republic of Armenia.